

# GROUND COVERS — For Year 'Round

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Gardening

Ground covers play a leading role in today's landscaping. In this descriptive list five of the leading kinds are discussed, though there are many others of outstanding merit.

Ground covers are tremendously important because of the landscape functions they perform. They simplify the planting; they tidily accentuate modern design; they alleviate the cluttered look so familiar to us due ostensibly to the over-plant-



The versatile ground covers are especially valuable in carpeting foundation areas where only a few, well-selected specimens are used . . . creating an immaculate, tailored effect. Thorn-  
dale ivy in this setting links together the plant materials.



In Washington, D.C. English ivy performs magnificently. Public grounds often require evergreen cover in the small, confined areas . . . otherwise difficult to manage in turf.

ing so generally practiced. Evergreen ground covers are carpets of green, summer and winter.

Today the emphasis is placed on using ground covers in combination with well-chosen trees, shrubs and evergreens, to bring order, taste and trimness to the landscape. The use of ground covers is the key to creating garden simplicity. They enhance, they tie-together, they carpet the planting with lush, year-around beauty.

## PLANT GROUND COVERS —

*. . . for Easier Landscape Care & Enduring Carpets of Green*

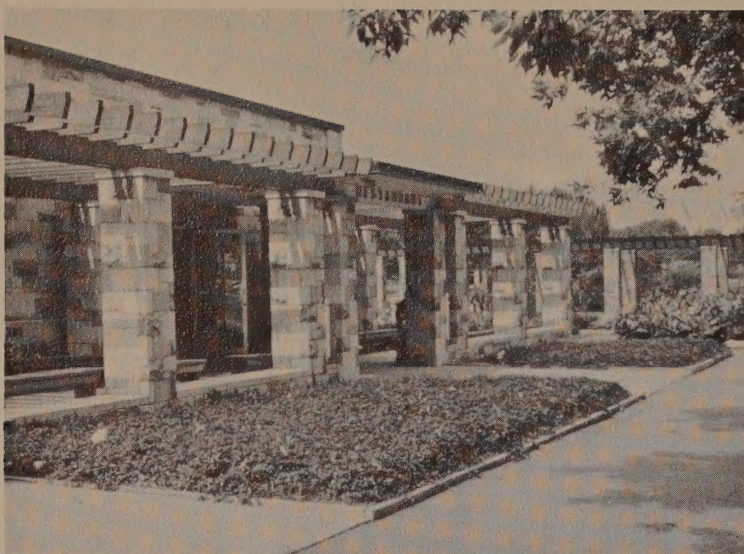
*. . . for Picturesque and Functional Effect the Year-Around*

*Cunningham Gardens*

INCORPORATED

WALDRON, INDIANA





*Vinca minor* (creeping myrtle or periwinkle) is an ideal cover in any landscape position where permanent carpeting is appropriate.

### VINCA MINOR

(creeping myrtle)

Another very dependable evergreen ground cover, so widely accepted because of its adaptability. Not only does it thrive in sun, and cover well in shade, it tolerates adversity as well or better than any other cover.

Every spring just prior to the emergence of the new vegetative growth, the true blue flowers appear and this show alone merits its worth. However, the deep green leaves, the heavy, matted growth, the hardiness, the almost trouble-free years and years of service, these features — and many more, combine to make *vinca minor* one of our favorites.

Though the creeping myrtle is strong and virtually trouble-free, there's always means by which more rapid, improved cover can be achieved. Here again, we must mention the importance of soil preparation. On the average landscape position rarely will we find conditions ready-made, or ideal, for transplanting any plant material — whether trees, shrubs, evergreens, or ground covers.



At The Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, *Vinca minor* is effectively demonstrated in softening pathway edges and in outlining an approach.

With soil conditions as they are in most places a soil building job is necessary, not just a half-hearted attempt at improving the soil structure, but a real, thorough, earnest effort. There's no doubt, it pays. Above all, it pays in establishing ground covers.

The addition of organic matter to soils is an investment for the present as well as the future. Organic material added to the soil improves texture — the actual physical form of the soil, and with improved texture the soil is able to drain well and still hold more water and air, to recreate and retain a reserve of plant nutrients. The organic material most readily available is peat, as baled sphagnum peat moss or bulk sedge peat. Very liberal amounts of either should be mixed into the planting areas. Inasmuch as this material is only partially decomposed, existing soil nutrients will be consumed in decaying, so to forestall any possible nitrogen deficiencies, fertilization should be made at the time the organic matter is worked into the soil. As a rule, this fertilizer should be in a well-balanced form.

Insect infestations are not a serious problem in periwinkle (*vinca minor*), but fungus disease can be troublesome during very rainy seasons. This disease affects the stems, recognized by wilting, dark brown shoot-tips which ultimately die back to the surface of the soil. To control, remove infected plants or prune out diseased portions, then spray with Bordeaux Mixture at two-week intervals, preferably in early spring when new growth begins. A new material, Acti-dione, though not as yet generally recommended specifically for this disease, has been found effective when applied as a control in mid-summer.



*Pachysandra terminalis* (Japanese spurge) . . . rich green, neat and charming; maintenance is easy.

### PACHYSANDRA TERMINALIS

(Japanese spurge)

For the shady position in the garden landscape, Japanese spurge is most ideally suited. Many of our ground covers will tolerate both sun and shade, but *pachysandra* thrives most perfectly in only the shaded or partially shaded places which are not adversely exposed to wind and sun.

Winter or summer, *pachysandra* has very pleasing rich green foliage, leaves which are rather spoon-shaped and



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| (25 @ 100 rate; 250 @ 1000 rate)                 | Pot Size     | 100 rate | 1000 rate |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Ajuga 'metallica crispa' (ground cover)          | 2 1/4" peat  | .14      | .12 1/2   |
| Ajuga 'Silver beauty' (ground cover)             | 2 1/4" peat  | .16      | .15       |
| Buxus sempervirens 'Carr's Variety'              | 5" paper     | .65      | .60       |
| Euonymus alatus compacta                         | 3" clay      | .22      | .20       |
| Euonymus fortunei coloratus (ground cover)       | 2 1/4" clay  | .14      | .13       |
| Euonymus fortunei 'Sarcocoe'                     | 2 1/2" clay  | .18      | .17       |
| Euonymus fortunei vegetus                        | 4" band      | .30      | .28       |
| Euonymus kiautschovicus 'Dupont'                 | 2 1/4" clay  | .15      | .14       |
| Hedera helix 'Bulgaria' (ground cover)           | 2 1/4" peat  | .16      | .15       |
| Hedera helix 'Coronet' (ground cover)            | 2 1/4" peat  | .15      | .14       |
| Hedera helix 'New York Botanical' (ground cover) | 2 1/4" peat  | .17      | .16       |
| Hedera helix 'Thorndale' (ground cover)          | 2 1/4" peat  | .17      | .15       |
| Hedera helix 'Wilsoni' (ground cover)            | 2 1/4" peat  | .15      | .14       |
| Juniperus horizontalis 'Andorra'                 | 5" paper     | .40      | .38       |
| Juniperus chinensis 'Armstrong'                  | 2 1/2" paper | .26      | .25       |
| Juniperus chinensis pfitzer                      | 2 1/2" pots  | .23      | .22       |
| Juniperus chinensis pfitzer                      | 3" pots      | .30      | .28       |
| Juniperus chinensis sargentii (ground cover)     | 4" band      | .43      | .42       |
| Juniperus procumbans nana (ground cover)         | 4" band      | .43      | .42       |
| Liriope spicata 'New Wonder' (ground cover)      | 2 1/2" clay  | .14      | .13       |
| Pachysandra terminalis (ground cover)            | 2 1/4" peat  | .14      | .12 1/2   |
| Picea omirika                                    | 5" paper     | .45      | x         |
| Pinus mughus                                     | 5" paper     | .45      | x         |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 2 1/2" clay  | .23      | .21       |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 4" band      | .33      | .31       |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 5" paper     | .43      | .41       |
| Taxus cuspidata nana                             | 2 1/2" clay  | .28      | .26       |
| Taxus cuspidata nana                             | 4" band      | .37      | .35       |
| Taxus densiformis                                | 4" band      | .40      | .36       |
| Taxus 'Holloran'                                 | 4" band      | .37      | .35       |
| Taxus 'Hatfield'                                 | 2 1/2" clay  | .25      | .22       |
| Taxus 'Hatfield'                                 | 4" band      | .37      | .35       |
| Taxus 'Hicks'                                    | 4" band      | .38      | .36       |
| Taxus 'Hunnewell'                                | 2 1/2" clay  | .25      | .22       |
| Taxus 'Hunnewell'                                | 4" band      | .37      | .35       |
| Taxus intermedia (Hobb's strain)                 | 2 1/2" clay  | .25      | .22       |
| Taxus m. 'Vermuellen'                            | 2 1/2" clay  | .25      | .22       |
| Thuya o. Nigra                                   | 4" band      | .30      | .28       |
| Thuya o. pyramidalis                             | 4" band      | .30      | .28       |
| Vinca minor 'Bowles' (ground cover)              | 2 1/4" peat  | .16      | .15       |
| Vinca minor, common (ground cover)               | 2 1/4" peat  | .14      | .12 1/2   |
| Vinca minor 'Jekyll's White' (ground cover)      | 2 1/4" peat  | .16      | .15       |

### Special for Spring season of 1962 GYPSOPHILA PINK FAIRY

Field Grown, perfect plants for container merchandising, package merchandising, or field lining.  
PINK FAIRY IS NEW, HAS FULLY DOUBLE, LARGE CLEAR BRIGHT PINK FLOWERS.

Field plants, dormant No. 1

\$30.00 per 100; \$28.00/C per 1000

### PRIMULA

The hardy primrose is one of our most fragrant, early spring blooming, best loved plant gems. Partial shade preferred in places kept moist in summer.

Pacific Hybrid Strain (Polyanthus)

Mixed colors only for spring . . . Rainbow blend of blue, red, white, yellow and pink. 2 1/4" Pots.

Prices: 25 @ \$5.00; 100 @ \$18.00; 250 & up @ \$15.00 per 100

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Prices: 25 @ \$2.00; 100 @ \$18.00; 250 & up @ \$12.00 per 100

Mixed colors only for spring . . . Rainbow blend of blue, red, white, yellow and pink. 2 1/2" Pots.  
Pacific Hybrid Strain (Polyanthus)  
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## GYPHOPHILA PINK FAIRY

Special for Spring season of 1962

| Field plants, dormant No. 1                      |              | Pot Size |    | 100 rate |        | 1000 rate |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|----|----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Vinca minor 'Jekyll's White' (ground cover)      | 2 1/2" pot   | 18       | 18 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Vinca minor 'common' (ground cover)              | 2 1/2" pot   | 18       | 18 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Vinca minor 'Bowles' (ground cover)              | 2 1/2" pot   | 18       | 18 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Thymus o. pyramidalis                            | 4" band      | 30       | 30 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Thymus o. nigrus                                 | 4" band      | 30       | 30 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Taxus m. 'Vermontian'                            | 2 1/2" clay  | 25       | 25 | 22       | 22     | 22        | 22     |
| Taxus intermedius (Hobb's strain)                | 2 1/2" clay  | 25       | 25 | 22       | 22     | 22        | 22     |
| Taxus 'Hunnewell'                                | 4" band      | 37       | 37 | 28       | 28     | 28        | 28     |
| Taxus 'Hunnewell'                                | 2 1/2" clay  | 25       | 25 | 22       | 22     | 22        | 22     |
| Taxus 'Hicks'                                    | 4" band      | 38       | 38 | 29       | 29     | 29        | 29     |
| Taxus 'Hartfield'                                | 4" band      | 37       | 37 | 28       | 28     | 28        | 28     |
| Taxus 'Hartfield'                                | 2 1/2" clay  | 25       | 25 | 22       | 22     | 22        | 22     |
| Taxus 'Haltoran'                                 | 4" band      | 37       | 37 | 28       | 28     | 28        | 28     |
| Taxus densata                                    | 4" band      | 40       | 40 | 30       | 30     | 30        | 30     |
| Taxus cuspidata nana                             | 4" band      | 37       | 37 | 28       | 28     | 28        | 28     |
| Taxus cuspidata nana                             | 2 1/2" clay  | 25       | 25 | 22       | 22     | 22        | 22     |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 2" paper     | 43       | 43 | 33       | 33     | 33        | 33     |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 4" band      | 39       | 39 | 29       | 29     | 29        | 29     |
| Taxus cuspidata                                  | 2 1/2" clay  | 23       | 23 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Pinus mughus                                     | 2" paper     | 45       | 45 | 35       | 35     | 35        | 35     |
| Picea omorika                                    | 2" paper     | 45       | 45 | 35       | 35     | 35        | 35     |
| Pachysandra terminalis (ground cover)            | 2 1/2" pot   | 14       | 14 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Liriodendron 'New Wonder' (ground cover)         | 2 1/2" clay  | 14       | 14 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Luniparus procumbens nana (ground cover)         | 4" band      | 43       | 43 | 33       | 33     | 33        | 33     |
| Luniparus chinensis argentei (ground cover)      | 4" band      | 43       | 43 | 33       | 33     | 33        | 33     |
| Luniparus chinensis glazer                       | 3" pots      | 30       | 30 | 23       | 23     | 23        | 23     |
| Luniparus chinensis glazer                       | 2 1/2" pots  | 23       | 23 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Luniparus chinensis 'Aristocrat'                 | 2 1/2" paper | 23       | 23 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Luniparus chinensis 'Andorra'                    | 2" paper     | 40       | 40 | 30       | 30     | 30        | 30     |
| Hedera helix 'Wilsoni' (ground cover)            | 2 1/2" pot   | 15       | 15 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Hedera helix 'Thorndale' (ground cover)          | 2 1/2" pot   | 17       | 17 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Hedera helix 'New York Botanical' (ground cover) | 2 1/2" pot   | 17       | 17 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Hedera helix 'Coronet' (ground cover)            | 2 1/2" pot   | 15       | 15 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Hedera helix 'Bulgaria' (ground cover)           | 2 1/2" pot   | 16       | 16 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Eunonymus katuschovicus 'Dupon'                  | 2 1/2" clay  | 15       | 15 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Eunonymus fortunei vegetus                       | 1" band      | 30       | 30 | 23       | 23     | 23        | 23     |
| Eunonymus fortunei 'Sarcocoe'                    | 2 1/2" clay  | 18       | 18 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Eunonymus fortunei coloratus (ground cover)      | 2 1/2" clay  | 14       | 14 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Eunonymus alatus compactus                       | 3" clay      | 23       | 23 | 20       | 20     | 20        | 20     |
| Buxus sempervirens 'Carr's Variety'              | 2" paper     | 65       | 65 | 50       | 50     | 50        | 50     |
| Ajuga 'Silver beauty' (ground cover)             | 2 1/2" pot   | 18       | 18 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |
| Ajuga 'metallica crisp' (ground cover)           | 2 1/2" pot   | 14       | 14 | 12 1/2   | 12 1/2 | 12 1/2    | 12 1/2 |

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arranged in whorls on trailing stems. These trailing stems, which stand neatly 6-8" high, emerge from underground runners. A top dressing of peat each year will keep the growing media cool and friable, ideal for freedom of root action, while in addition the peat will partially acidify the soil to the liking of spurge. An annual fertilization is also recommended.

The spurge grows best in soils having a slightly acid pH reaction, thus is in perfect harmony, texture and physiologically, among azaleas, rhododendrons, pieris, leucothoe, and many of the other broadleaved evergreens which require similar soils.

Pachysandra maintenance is not a difficult chore, in fact it is one of the easiest to manage successfully. Some light pruning each year keeps the planting neat and orderly. Vigilance must be exercised though in making sure scale insects do not become a problem, for spurge — as ivy and euonymus, is prone to scale depredation, but if one becomes cognizant of the danger and will pursue control measures as soon as discovered, then the cover will be most satisfactory for many, many years.



Carpet bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) will grow well in sun or shade and spread rapidly. Blue flowers in spring.

*Ajuga* grows very rapidly when given necessary moisture and fertility, but along with the ideal growing conditions troubles can occur. The heavy growth can manifest fungus infection underneath and, if permitted to advance, gradual foliage breakdown will take place. An occasional copper spray during the humid, moist days of summer will give control, as will also a combined zineb and captan spray. A good fertility level must be maintained for best growth, just as with turf.

*Ajuga* will tolerate full sun or light shade, but in either position during the periods of extreme heat, some supplementary irrigation must be made to keep the planting clean and fresh.

## EUONYMUS FORTUNEI COLORATUS

(purpleleaf wintercreeper)

In evaluating any plant material, in judging any particular plant for specific ground cover use, usually we think only of the good points, but we must also give some thought to the characteristics which might burden or be troublesome for the average home gardener.

There are some weaknesses in any plant species, but as a rule they're minor and we overlook them because more is offered in long-term effect, in versatility and in aesthetic value to offset the shortcomings. But we should be cautious in selecting kinds most appropriate for the purpose to which intended, kinds which will function with the least possible maintenance.

With these things to consider, the more versatility a plant offers, the more acceptable it is to a greater number of gardeners and the wider use the plant has for landscaping. In the *Euonymus* varieties of the *fortunei* species, there is this versatility. *Coloratus* is the headliner.

For ground cover, the purpleleaf wintercreeper is the most extensively used variety of this species of which the most distinguishing feature is the deep purplish-red foliage color assumed in the fall and retained all winter long and until new leaves come out in spring.

The euonymus ground cover is applicable to almost an unending number of landscape situations. The cover thrives in shaded areas which prevail under densely



A moist woodland setting carpeted with 'Spring Beauty' (*Claytonia virginica*). A ground cover planted by nature.

## AJUGA METALLICA CRISPA

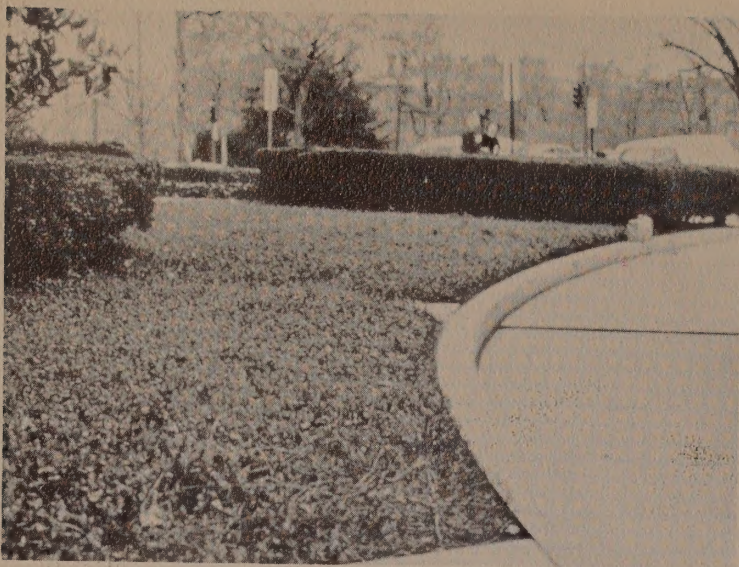
(carpet bugle)

*Ajuga* has become one of our leading ground covers, probably because it is one of the easiest to grow, the most rapid to cover. It does a good job in sun, in shade, on flat areas, on slopes, in strip plantings, among rocks, on terraces, also as an accent cover under our small, elite flowering trees used in contemporary landscaping.

*Metallica crispa* bears a dark, reddish-bronze foliage with a metallic quality, a sheen with sort of an oriental effect. The leaves have crisped edges, the flowers appear on 6-8" spikes and are blue. As the redbud and dogwood bloom in early spring, almost simultaneously the *ajuga* blooms and contributes its share of the spring spectacle.

There are cultural requirements to follow for best success in the management of *ajuga*. Of course, as with all ground covers, good soil preparation is a prerequisite. This entails working in copious quantities of humus, building a soil structure which drains well and buffers the nutritive elements when added, also be able to hold a moisture balance throughout the seasons of active growth.





The purpleleaf wintercreeper is ideally suited for year-around ground cover because of its color-interest and its ability to facilitate a wide range of landscape situations.



For partial shade, English ivy (*Hedera helix* 'THORNDALE') is a most attractive and popular ground cover.

foliated trees, on steep banks where erosion is a problem, in narrow strips next to walks and buildings, as edging along driveways where delineation is important — just any position in the landscape where a perfectly hardy evergreen ground cover is an asset. Many of the euonymus varieties are particularly useful as wall cover, in that all are inclined to vine upward where support is available. *Coloratus* is ideally suited to that of wall cover though some fastening is required in creating the cover and clipping is necessary if one is to affect a degree of neatness on the cover.

*Euonymus* is not particularly hard to establish. Soils should be average good. An annual fertilization should be made and, each year, some pruning will be required to shape-up the planting. *Euonymus* can be the most beautiful cover obtainable, with good care, and it can be an unsightly one when maintenance is neglected. Corrective pruning, therefore, is of great importance in its care.

## HEDERA HELIX 'THORNDALE'

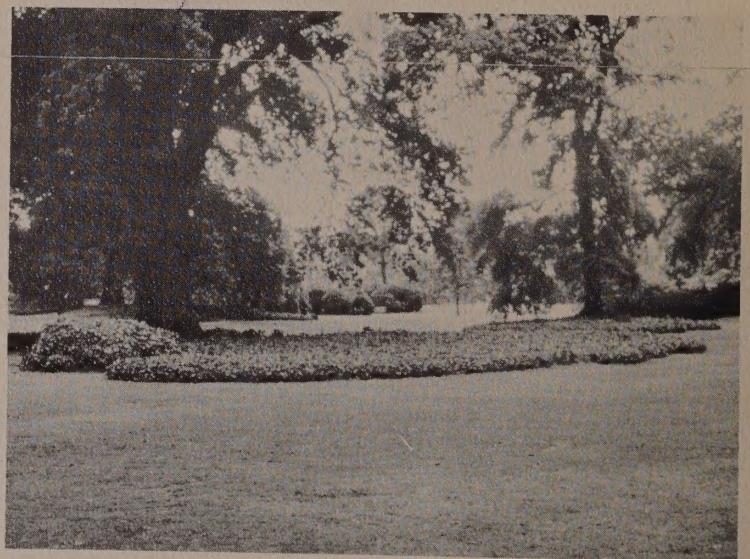
(Thorndale Ivy)

Thorndale was introduced just a few years ago and its popularity has increased steadily. It lends distinction, substantial quality and delightful colorful effect to the garden scene, both in summer and in winter. Thorndale is sub-zero hardy under the wide extremes of typical mid-western winters, but even so, in any location, good cultural practices must be pursued for best, most rapid, permanent ground cover.

There are a few recommendations to consider in creating better growing conditions, better growing climate, for the hardy ivy — yes, for all ground covers in general. Use humus, lots of it, preferably well rotted manure or peat moss, or domestic sedge peat, thoroughly incorporated into the planting area. If, in the soil media there is adequate soil air, good drainage, good fertility and sufficient moisture for the summer growing season, while in addition the planting site is not wind-swept and one on which partial shade is cast during winter, you then have

the most excellent location and conditions for establishing a cover planting which will start off rapidly, root deeply, continue to grow vigorously for many, many years. It is this meticulous, advance attention to soil preparation which assures maximum success with Thorndale, a practice also equally imperative in developing ground cover with other good plants.

An outstanding Thorndale feature, in addition to its hardiness, is the very deep green summer foliage color, accented even more attractively in winter when the leaves assume deeper green tones and are highlighted by the prominent silvery veins. The leaves are medium-large, somewhat larger than the so-called *baltica* types — a name for many years connected with hardier strains of English ivy, though today not considered descriptive of any particular clone, but merely a name covering a broad field of many colonial selections. Thorndale, a selected strain, can be depended upon for beauty and hardiness, plus performance.



In this scene at The Royal Botanical Gardens near London, English ivy is planted in drifts under high shade . . . linking together lawn and trees into an attractive, compatible unit.